



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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FULL METAL JACKET 1990: MORE OF THE SAME.

Editor's note: Just when you thought CALPEEK was finished with its coverage of the ongoing fight between the GUN LOBBY and LAW ENFORCEMENT, we're back with more about the confrontation over GUN CONTROL. Here is CALPEEK's analysis of recent events...

...In case the Republicans don't realize it, three GOP Assemblymen, Curt Pringle of Garden Grove, Bill Filante of San Rafael and perhaps a third as yet unnamed GOPer, are being SET UP by Legislative Demos. At issue are three holdover bills from 1989 dealing with GUNS:

- The 15-day waiting period bill on all guns by Lloyd Connelly(D-Sacto). AB 497...
- The handgun safety bill by Rusty Areias(D-Salinas). AB 1680...
- The clip bill, limiting the number of rounds in a clip/magazine to no more than 15. Author of AB 334 is Johan Klehs(D-San Leandro)...

...Why is it a set up? Because polling data suggests that OPPONENTS of these gun bills might be vulnerable to attack in the upcoming November election. Sources tell CALPEEK it is probable that Pringle and Filante may oppose these bills, thus making enemies with law enforcement groups backing this legislative package. As to why Filante, who so far has no Demo opponent, is on the hit list, that remains a mystery to some insiders...

...AB 497 is waiting on the State Senate floor, while AB 1680 and AB 334 will soon go to a Senate/Assembly conference committee. It's in the conference where the GOP assembly members are being set up. Pringle has been assigned to AB 1680; while Filante has been assigned to AB 334. Placing the

lawmakers on the conference committee puts them in the political spotlight. Who picks the conference committee members? Need you ask: Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown...

WITH McMARTIN DECISION, DEMO PRIMARY CONTEST FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL IS A NEW GAME.

No two ways about it: when the NOT GUILTY verdicts were announced in the McMartin child molestation case, L.A. District Atty. Ira Reiner's stock took a BIG TUMBLE. But the question still remains: can Demo S.F. District Atty. Arlo Smith overtake Reiner and pull an upset in June???

...Just before the holidays, Sacto consultant David Townsend told CALPEEK he was no longer on retainer to Reiner, but had shifted over to the DA's executive steering committee. Townsend said Reiner didn't need a consultant because Smith wasn't a viable Demo challenger. Fighting words...

...What has changed? McMartin, money and momentum — all in favor of the guy some call "The Nerd from the North." The McMartin case, of course, was a NO WIN situation for Reiner from day one. It still is, with 13 hung jury counts remaining. If Reiner refiles against Ray Buckey, this case would be around during the primary, reminding people about how the prosecution case began to fall apart in the last years of the trial. True, not all the mistakes were Reiner's fault, but many occurred on HIS WATCH. If Reiner does NOT refile, then some of the McMartin parents will undoubtedly go on the warpath. Either way, Reiner is in a tough spot during this time...

...Let's talk money. Smith has had a tough time raising it, especially in So. Calif. where he is not well known. What to do???

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Smith has reportedly dumped in \$500,000 of his own. This shows he is committed to the race and may help to open the check books of others. Smith has also hired fundraiser John Plaxco of L.A. Bottomline on money: who cares if Smith used his own - GREEN is GREEN and it buys TV time and slates...

...Momentum. Just about the time of the McMartin verdict, Smith got lucky. L.A. Times political reporter Keith Love did a great page 3 story on Smith and a number of people read it. It was Smith's first major break in terms of positive media exposure in So. Calif. And Smith got more media exposure after the McMartin verdicts were announced. He peppered Reiner's handling of the case, but to be fair, some of Smith's criticisms weren't justified...

...The media exposure has sparked interest in Smith, but some So. Calif. insiders are not convinced just yet. L.A. consultant George Pla says Smith is an interesting candidate, but is running a typical No. Calif. campaign. "He needs to park it down here and outspend Reiner 2-1 in So. Calif."...

...The Calif. Poll shows the Demo race to be wide open. Yes, Reiner does enjoy a big lead in name ID, but in a one-on-one match with Smith, Reiner's lead is only 36% to 23%, with 41% undecided. These polling figures are from October 1989...

...In terms of endorsements, Smith seems to have gotten off to a good start, especially with law enforcement support. Latino Peace Officers Assn., PORAC, C.O.P.S., CA Union of Safety Employees, CA Park Peace Officers and CA State Police Assn. have all endorsed Smith over Reiner. Smith has also been endorsed by NOW...

...But there is more. Part of the Smith strategy is to win the official endorsement of the CA Democratic Party. Without great fanfare, Smith has won endorsements from 19 county central committees, including San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties. Plus, his campaign claims endorsements by 40 Demo "E" board members...

...Bottomline: Manager Marc Dann is absolutely convinced he's got a winner in Arlo Smith. Maybe, but there are lots of people to be won over in So. Calif., Smith's weak spot. Can Smith win? Political consultant

Brian Lungren, brother of GOP AG candidate Dan Lungren, says that before the holidays he didn't give Smith much of a chance. But now, after McMartin, he gives Smith a 50-50 shot at upsetting Reiner in the Democratic primary. What all of this really means is that Reiner can no longer ignore Smith's Demo primary challenge. Stay tuned...

JOHN LEWIS CAN'T BE CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

The CA 3rd Dist. Court of Appeals has ruled that the AG's office can't prosecute GOP Assemblyman John Lewis of Orange under the State's felony forgery laws in connection with the 1986 Phony White House letters case. The written opinion says in part if the testimony is accurate, then Lewis was "guilty of misconduct which impinges on the public's interest in the integrity of its governmental institutions." However, since there was no hint of fraud relating to money or property, the forgery laws don't apply. The impact of this ruling will probably have an effect on the ongoing investigation by the L.A. DA's office in connection with a forged endorsement letter for now Assemblyman Willard Murray (D-Paramount). In 1988, someone rewrote parts of a 7 paragraph endorsement letter by the NRA on behalf of Murray. Also, what impact will this ruling have on former consultant Dianne Wiley? She was convicted of a misdemeanor forgery in connection with a phony Ted Kennedy letter in a bitter Demo assembly primary race San Bernardino in 1988. CALPEEK will follow-up next week...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CA BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here is an update on ballot measure/campaign activity for 1990. The deadline for qualifying measures for the November 1990 ballot is June 28th...

- San Diego Councilman Bruce Henderson has filed "The Taxpayers' Fair Share Initiative" with the AG's office. This measure would require the State to share income tax revenue with local government; up to 12% phased in over a 4 year period. Current local aid to cities and counties can't be reduced and these added funds have a Gann spending limit waiver - under this plan. Polling by Decision Research shows the public would support this measure if it makes the November 1990 ballot. In terms of dollars, L.A. City would get \$416 million; San Diego \$130 million; S.F. \$110 million. The

extra dollars are earmarked for infrastructure and public safety, but the allocations can be changed by a public vote. Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger are consultants. Contact Donna Nenow at (619)236-1332...

- Two reapportionment plans, one by Gary Flynn and the other by San Mateo Co. Sup. Tom Huening, qualified for the June ballot this past week. Total number of initiatives for the June ballot now stands at 5. Jan. 25th was the deadline for qualifying...

- "Gaming Commission. Sports Wagering," is the official title of a constitutional initiative sponsored by Assemblyman Dick Floyd(D-Lawndale). This would allow all kinds of legal sports betting. Taxes would be imposed on the gross receipts of those who have been licensed to set up legalized betting parlors. About 50% of the tax revenue would go to senior citizen programs, 45% to local government, and 5% to the gaming commission. Floyd needs 585,485 signatures by May 29 to qualify for November's ballot. For info, contact Dick Floyd at (916)445-0965...

NEW INSURANCE PLAN INTRODUCED IN ASSEMBLY.

It may not be what the insurance industry had hoped for, but AB 2650 by author Steve Peace(D-Chula Vista) will be the key insurance reform bill carried this year in the lower house. Key co-authors are Assembly Speaker Willie Brown(D-S.F.) and member Frank Hill(R-Whittier). This bill will include a number of features, but right now the main element is a requirement to show proof of insurance at the time a new car is purchased and/or during yearly registration procedures. Source tell CALPEEK that Gov. George Deukmejian will play a key role in shaping this bill. Stay tuned...

L.A. TIMES POLLSTER LEWIS SPEAKER JAN. 31.

The director of the L.A. Times poll, Bud Lewis, will be the featured speaker before the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn., 12 to 1:30 p.m., Jan. 31, Tower Restaurant, L.A. For info, Tom Dey (213)315-8915...

CSUS PLANS ENVISIONING CALIF. CONFERENCE.

"Envisioning Calif. II: The Diversity of Peoples and Regions," is the subject of a 3-day conference centering on Calif. history and politics; Feb. 8-10 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacto. For info, Center for Calif. Studies (916)278-6906...

CARD CLUB WARS: GETTING AN OK ISN'T EASY.

Editor's note: A 24-hour card club in L.A. with around 160 tables can bring in gross receipts of about \$90 million annually. Because such clubs generate millions in local taxes, you'd think more communities would want them. But getting approval for POKER CLUBS is easier said than done. Here is a brief CALPEEK report on some recent developments in this area...

...Last Oct. 3, voters in Cathedral City overwhelmingly rejected a plan to build a \$25 million hotel resort/card club in this desert city near Palm Springs. In late December, the West Hollywood City Council voted 5-0 NOT to place a referendum on the ballot for a card club in this upscale city next to Beverly Hills. Then in early January, by a 5-0 vote, the city council in National City, south of San Diego, followed West Hollywood's example...

...But the revenue these types of clubs can generate is just too appealing, which is why CALPEEK sources believe that card club backers will eventually go the initiative route in both West Hollywood and National City --- and perhaps some other cities as well, in the not too distant future...

...Why a citywide vote? In 1984, the State Legislature passed the Gaming Registration Act, which requires a vote if an enabling law on gaming is not already on the city books. And there are only two ways to get such a law before voters: either the city council places the measure on the ballot (the easy way) or backers have to use the initiative (the tough way)...

...For example, backers of the West Hollywood Card Club will probably use the initiative to push for a November vote on a new plan to build a club from scratch in the city's underdeveloped east end. A decision should be reached shortly...

...In terms of National City, the chief backer is George Hardie, the mayor of Cathedral City, who is also the managing partner of The Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens. And yes, Hardie was the chief supporter of Prop. L & M in Cathedral City last October. Like the Cathedral City deal, the National City plan called for the construction of a 220-room hotel along with a club. Polling

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showed the public favored the proposal 2-1, but the roof fell in when opposition showed up to protest. An initiative is possible in 1991, but not this year...

...What are the ideal conditions for a card club? Economics are the key. If a city is having a difficult time generating revenue, and has modest unemployment in the area, then a club provides a quick financial fix. What about opposition? Card club backers typically end up fighting three types of groups: the religious right, law enforcement and competing card clubs, who are out to protect their own turf. Stay tuned...

27th A.D. SPECIAL ELECTION: AV IS THE KEY. With this special election in the 27th A.D. set for Jan. 30 in the Modesto/Merced area, insiders are having a tough time figuring out which of two candidates is the leader. The Republican is Modesto Councilman Dick Lang and the Demo is Stanislaus Co. Sup. Sal Cannella...

...Week old polling data suggests the race could go in either direction. Demos hold a very slight voter registration edge, but that doesn't mean anything in a special. The KEY, many think, is which side does the best job rounding up ABSENT VOTERS - AV's. Voting by mail has been the Demos' secret of success in two other recent special elections: the 15th C.D. race in this same Central Valley area; and in the 39th S.D. in San Diego, where Demo Lucy Killea won the contest with AV ballots. Her GOP opponent actually got more votes on election day...

...Republicans have learned some lessons from these two previous contests and are pumping manpower and money into this race. GOP Assembly Leader Ross Johnson very much wants to win this seat. And some insiders give Lang a good shot at winning...

...In terms of numbers, GOP sources claim to have turned in some 13,000 AV ballots, while Demos say they have sent in 20,000 absentee ballots. These figures were as of Jan. 22. As for money, there's no doubt who has more: the GOP. Lang is on TV, radio and has lots of mail. Cannella's team is putting everything into mail, field operations and GOTV. And yes, the NRA is conducting an independent campaign on behalf of Lang, while organized labor is helping Cannella. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, NEW ACCOUNTS, NEW ORGANIZATIONS. Editor's note: Here's a brief summary of personnel notes, etc.

- Eric Rose, former AA/press secretary for State Sen. Ed Davis(R-Valencia), is the new day-to-day mgr. for State Sen. Marian Bergeson's GOP primary campaign for LG...

- Kris Vosburgh has been named executive director of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. Vosburgh was an AA to Assemblywoman Marian La Follette(R-Northridge)...

- Consultants Frank Wilson and Jeff Adler have formed a joint-ventura campaign consulting business - Adler Wilson Campaign Services, Inc., 23332 Mill Creek Dr., #155, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. Temporary phone is (714)588-1124. Also joining the new firm is consultant Lynda Pope. Clients include Long Beach Councilman Les Robbins, who faces reelection in April...

- Covina Councilman Henry Morgan has been elected to the So. Coast AQMD Board. He replaces Leo King, who resigned as Baldwin Park Mayor and from the board...

CALIF. GOP & DEMOS SET ANNUAL CONVENTIONS. The CA Republican Party (CRP) has set Mar. 9-11 in Santa Clara as the site for its semi-annual convention. Convention HQ will be the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. For information (818)841-5210. The CA Democratic Party will hold its annual convention in L.A. Apr. 7-9, with the HQ being the L.A. Convention Center. For info (415)896-5503...

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